Fish and Wildlife Service

Sikes Act Coordination Activities

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Fish and Wildlife Service Mission

“Working with others, to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people."

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Sikes Act Coordination

- **The FWS is one of the primary agencies within the U. S. Government whose primary responsibility is fish and wildlife conservation.**

Major Authorities

- **Sikes Act**
- **Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act**
- **Endangered Species Act**
- **National Environmental Policy Act**

Sikes Act Coordination

- The Sikes Act provides for:
  - –The effective planning, development, maintenance, and coordination of fish & wildlife conservation activities on military installations
  - –1997 Amendments require cooperative development and mutual agreement on Installation INRMPs

FWS Involvement in Sikes Act Planning Activities

- **Evaluate impacts on fish and wildlife**
- **Ensure consideration of fish and wildlife resources in installation planning activities**
- **Identify opportunities to enhance fish and wildlife while accomplishing other mission objectives**
- **Technical assistance to installations to ensure consideration of fish and wildlife**

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FWS Ecosystem-based Planning Approach

Ecosystems include:

- **living organisms**
- **physical surroundings**
- **natural cycles**

Why plan on an Ecosystem basis?

- **Comprehensive**
- **Watershed-based**

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Ecosystem-based Approach to INRMP Review

All Service's field units in a watershed combine forces to review INRMPs, improving efficiency and effectiveness

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FWS Organization

- **Decentralized**
- **7 Regional Directors**
  - **5 Programmatic ARDs**
- **120 Ecological Services FO's**
- **64 Fisheries Resource Offices**
- **Over 500 National Wildlife Refuges**

Partnerships Work!

INRMP Development

Involve the FWS as early as possible

Work cooperatively in INRMP preparation to resolve issues.